

My Planned Care Patient Information Platform

ENT - Tonsil Removal

Introduction

The surgical to remove the tonsils is called a tonsillectomy. The tonsils are two small almond-shaped mounds of lymphatic tissue that sit on either side of the back of the throat. They are part of your body's system to fight infection and are only important during the first few years of life.

The Covid pandemic has had a significant impact on the NHS ability to provide routine elective services. We recognise that patients are waiting longer than we would all like and it is not always possible to identify when treatment will take place. This document provides you with information on how you can support yourself while waiting to attend the hospital.

Guidance for Patients

Whilst awaiting tonsillectomy surgery you may experience intermittent and or recurrent tonsil infections.

Should these infections persist more than 3-4 days or cause difficulty swallowing then you should arrange an appointment with your GP who will be able to prescribe a course of oral antibiotic and oral steroid:

- Co-amoxiclav or Doxycycline or Clarithromycin (if there is a penicillin allergy) for 7 days and
- Prednisolone 40 mg once-a-day in the morning, on full stomach for 5 days

Pain relief medications such as over the counter paracetamol and ibuprofen can be used.

Would you consider the opportunity to have your surgery at another local hospital at an earlier date?

Whilst awaiting surgery at the hospital you were originally seen, there may be an opportunity to have your surgery at an earlier date at another Hospital in North East London under the care of another ENT Consultant surgeon. If you would like to go ahead with this option, please let the bookings team know so that they can make the alternative arrangements.

What should I do if my health is deteriorating?

It is important to advise us if you have a chest infection or tonsillitis before your admission date because it may be better to postpone the operation. It is very important to tell us if you have any unusual bleeding or bruising problems, or if this type of problem might run in your family.

Change in symptoms

If your symptoms change or get worse whilst you are waiting for your appointment or procedure, you should contact your GP or [NHS 111](#) for advice.

How to prepare

There are many steps you can take to better prepare for your procedure:

- **Stop smoking** to improve your body's ability to heal and to improve your lung function. Guidance on the support available to help you stop smoking [can be found on the NICE website](#).

- **Exercise more and eat a healthy diet** to help your body manage the demands of surgery and aid recovery. For tips on helping you to start healthier eating habits, be more active and start losing weight, [download the free NHS Weight Loss Plan](#).
- **Reduce your alcohol intake.** Ensure you are drinking within (or preferably below) the recommended limits. This will improve your ability to heal after surgery.
- **Take care of your mental health** by preparing yourself for your procedure and recovery, to help reduce anxiety and stress.

Links to further information on living well and being better prepared for your surgery are available here:

- ENT UK is the professional body representing Ear, Nose and Throat surgery. Their website has patient information on a range of common ENT Conditions and Procedures.
<http://www.entuk.org/>
- The Royal College of Anaesthetics has developed a set of 'Fitter Better Sooner' resources that will provide you with the information you need to become fitter and better prepared for your operation. [Royal College of Anaesthetics](#)
- The NHS live well web page, which provides general advice, tips and tools on health and wellbeing.
<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/>